

**REMARKS**

The Official Action of April 22, 2004, and the prior art cited and relied upon therein have been carefully studied. The claims in the application are now claims 1 and 5-18, and these claims define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable reconsideration and such allowance are respectfully urged.

Claims 19-31 have been canceled as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 1 and 5-18 remain in the application for consideration.

In response to the Examiner's objection to claims 8-16, Applicant has amended these claims to be in an active voice as required by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that this objection has now been overcome.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that claims 5-18 would be allowable subject to being rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicant has added a portion of the allowable features of claim 5 to independent claim 1. Applicant submits that this limitation renders the claim novel, because the curve of ventricular contractile force variation as a function of heart rate as a significant parameter is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

Appln. No. 10/023,761  
Amdt. dated July 16, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of April 22, 2004

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is now allowable along with claims 5-18 dependent therefrom, and that this application is now in condition for allowance.

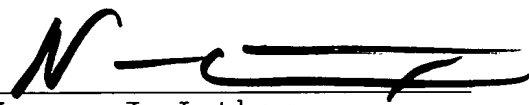
Acknowledgement by the PTO of the receipt of applicants' papers filed under Section 119 is noted.

The prior art documents made of record and not relied upon have been noted along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently pertinent to warrant their applications against any of applicant's claims.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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